

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

RICHARD HURRLE, individually and on  
behalf of all others similarly situated,

**Plaintiff.**

V.

## REAL TIME RESOLUTIONS, INC.,

Defendant.

NO.

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT  
FOR DAMAGES AND  
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF  
PURSUANT TO 47 U.S.C. § 227  
*et seq.* (TELEPHONE CONSUMER  
PROTECTION ACT)**

## **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff Richard Hurrel (hereinafter referred to as “Plaintiff”), by his undersigned attorneys, for this class action complaint against Defendant Real Time Resolutions, Inc., alleges as follows:

## I. NATURE OF ACTION

1. Plaintiff, individually and as a class representative for all similarly situated persons in the United States who have received telephone calls to their cellular telephones made using an automatic telephone dialing system by or on behalf of Defendant, brings this action for violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227 *et seq.* (hereinafter referred to as the “TCPA”) against Defendant Real Time Resolutions, Inc. and its present, former, or future direct and indirect parent companies, subsidiaries, affiliates, agents,

1 and/or related entities (hereinafter referred to as "Real Time" or "the Company" or  
2 "Defendant").

3 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4 2. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiff's TCPA claims pursuant  
5 to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because Plaintiff's TCPA claims arise under the laws of the United States,  
6 specifically 47 U.S.C. § 227.

7 3. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because it does business in  
8 Washington and many of the wrongful acts alleged in this Complaint were committed in  
9 Washington.

10 4. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1), in that  
11 Defendant does sufficient business in this District to subject it to personal jurisdiction herein  
12 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c)(2). Defendant is licensed to do business in the state of  
13 Washington and conducts business in Washington. Venue is also proper in this District  
14 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2), because Plaintiff received the calls at issue in this case  
15 within this District and a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim  
16 occurred in this District.

17 **III. PARTIES**

18 5. Plaintiff Richard Hurrel is, and at all times mentioned herein was, an individual  
19 citizen of the State of Washington, who resides in Clark County.

20 6. Defendant Real Time is a Texas corporation with its principal place of business  
21 in Dallas, Texas. Real Time does business throughout the country, including this District. Real  
22 Time is a "specialty servicer" of residential real estate mortgage loans, specializing in servicing  
23 loans that are in default.

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## IV. THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 1991 (TCPA), 47 U.S.C. § 227

7. In 1991, Congress enacted the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227 (TCPA), in response to a growing number of consumer complaints regarding certain telemarketing practices.

8. The TCPA regulates, among other things, the use of automated telephone equipment, or “autodialers.” Specifically, the plain language of Section 227(b)(1)(A)(iii) prohibits the use of autodialers to make any call to a wireless number in the absence of an emergency or the prior express consent of the called party.

9. According to findings by the Federal Communication Commission (“FCC”), the agency Congress vested with authority to issue regulations implementing the TCPA, such calls are prohibited because, as Congress found, automated or prerecorded telephone calls are a greater nuisance and invasion of privacy than live solicitation calls, and such calls can be costly and inconvenient. The FCC also recognized that many wireless customers are charged for incoming calls whether they pay in advance or after the minutes are used.

10. On January 4, 2008, the FCC released a Declaratory Ruling wherein it confirmed that autodialed and prerecorded message calls to a wireless number by a creditor (or on behalf of a creditor) are permitted only if the calls are made with the “prior express consent” of the called party. The FCC “emphasize[d] that prior express consent is deemed to be granted only if the wireless number was provided by the consumer to the creditor, and that such number was provided during the transaction that resulted in the debt owed.”

## **V. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

11. Directly as well as through its contractors, vendor and/or agents, Defendant employs hundreds of persons at various call centers throughout the country. These calling centers use automatic telephone dialing systems and computerized account information to track, record, and maintain the hundreds of thousands of accounts serviced by Defendant.

12. A significant portion, if not a majority, of Defendant's business operations are dedicated to servicing consumer loans that are in default, foreclosure, have been charged off by the original lender, or are subject to discharge in bankruptcy.

13. Part of Defendant's regular business practice is to make repeated phone calls to persons it believes responsible for paying past-due mortgage loans.

14. Prior to filing for bankruptcy protection in 2007, Plaintiff owned as his primary residence a home located at 6311 NE 94th Avenue, Vancouver, Washington, 98662. The home was secured by a first mortgage held by Countrywide Home Loans, and a second mortgage held by Litton Loans.

15. On information and belief, Litton Loans was liquidated and sold to another lender called Ocwen Financial Corp.

16. Plaintiff filed for Chapter 13 bankruptcy protection on November 27, 2007. In conjunction with the filing, Plaintiff surrendered and vacated his home. The bankruptcy court entered an Order of discharge on or about July 2, 2009 after Plaintiff made all payments required under his confirmed Chapter 13 plan.

17. After the bankruptcy court entered its discharge order, Real Time began calling Plaintiff on his cellular telephone demanding payment for the Litton/Ocwen second mortgage. Plaintiff has no business relationship with Real Time, nor did he ever give consent to Real Time to call his cellular telephone. Real Time made repeated calls to Plaintiff on his cellular telephone.

18. Each of the calls placed by Real Time were made by means of an automatic telephone dialing system as defined by the TCPA and all calls that are the subject of this Complaint occurred within four years of the filing of this Complaint.

## VI. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

19. Plaintiff brings this action individually and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated (hereinafter referred to as "the Class").

1       20.    Class Definition. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, Plaintiff  
2 brings this case as a class action on behalf of a Class of persons defined as follows:

3           All persons within the United States who received a non-  
4 emergency telephone call from Real Time Resolutions, Inc. to a  
5 cellular telephone through the use of an automatic telephone  
6 dialing system and who did not provide prior express consent for  
7 such calls, at any time from August 30, 2009 to the date of trial.

8           Excluded from the Class are Real Time and any entities in which Real Time has a  
9 controlling interest, Real Time's agents and employees, the Judge to whom this action is  
10 assigned and any member of the Judge's staff and immediate family.

11       21.    Numerosity. The Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is  
12 impracticable. Upon information and belief, the Class has more than 1000 members.  
13 Moreover, the disposition of the claims of the Class in a single action will provide substantial  
14 benefits to all parties and the Court.

15       22.    Commonality. There are numerous questions of law and fact common to  
16 Plaintiff and the member of the Class. These common questions of law and fact include, but  
17 are not limited to, the following:

- 18           a.       Whether Real Time made non-emergency calls to Plaintiff and Class  
19 members' cellular telephones using an automatic telephone dialing system;
- 20           b.       Whether Real Time can meet its burden of showing that it obtained prior  
21 express consent (i.e., consent that is clearly and unmistakably stated), during the transaction  
22 that resulted in the debt owed, to make such calls;
- 23           c.       Whether Real Time's conduct was knowing and/or willful;
- 24           d.       Whether Real Time's is liable for damages, and the amount of such  
25 damages; and
- 26           e.       Whether Real Time should be enjoined from engaging in such conduct in  
27 the future.

1       23.    Typicality. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class. Plaintiff's  
 2 claims, like the claims of the Class, arise out of the same common course of conduct by  
 3 Defendant and are based on the same legal and remedial theories.

4       24.    Adequacy. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class.  
 5 Plaintiff has retained competent and capable attorneys who are experienced trial lawyers with  
 6 significant experience in complex and class action litigation, including consumer class actions  
 7 and TCPA class actions. Plaintiff and his counsel are committed to prosecuting this action  
 8 vigorously on behalf of the Class and have the financial resources to do so. Neither Plaintiff  
 9 nor their counsel have interests that are contrary to or that conflict with those of the proposed  
 10 Class.

11       25.    Predominance. Defendant has engaged in a common course of conduct toward  
 12 Plaintiff and the Class. The common issues arising from this conduct that affect Plaintiff and  
 13 the Class predominate over any individual issues. Adjudication of these common issues in a  
 14 single action has important and desirable advantages of judicial economy.

15       26.    Superiority. A class action is the superior method for the fair and efficient  
 16 adjudication of this controversy. Classwide relief is essential to compel Defendant to comply  
 17 with the TCPA. The interest of individual members of the Class in individually controlling the  
 18 prosecution of separate claims against Defendant is small because the statutory damages in an  
 19 individual action for violation of the TCPA are small. Management of these claims is likely to  
 20 present significantly fewer difficulties than are presented in many class claims because the calls  
 21 at issue are all automated. Class treatment is superior to multiple individual suits or piecemeal  
 22 litigation because it conserves judicial resources, promotes consistency and efficiency of  
 23 adjudication, provides a forum for small claimants, and deters illegal activities. There will be  
 24 no significant difficulty in the management of this case as a class action.

25       27.    Injunctive and Declaratory Relief Appropriate. Defendant has acted on grounds  
 26 generally applicable to the Class, thereby making final injunctive relief and corresponding  
 27 declaratory relief with respect to the Class appropriate on a classwide basis. Moreover, on

1 information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that the automated calls made by Defendant and/or its  
2 affiliates, agents and/or other persons or entities acting on Defendant's behalf that are  
3 complained of herein are substantially likely to continue in the future if an injunction is not  
4 entered.

5 **VII. FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

6 **(Negligent Violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act,  
47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A))**

7 28. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation set  
8 forth in the preceding paragraphs.

9 29. The foregoing acts and omissions of Real Time and/or its affiliates, agents  
10 and/or other persons or entities acting on Defendant's behalf constitute numerous and multiple  
11 negligent violations of the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A).

12 30. As a result of Real Time's negligent violations of the TCPA, 47 U.S.C.  
13 § 227(b)(1)(A), Plaintiff and members of the Class are each entitled to an award of \$500.00 in  
14 statutory damages for each and every call in violation of the statute, pursuant to 47 U.S.C.  
15 § 227(b)(3)(B).

16 31. Plaintiff and the Class are also entitled to and do seek injunctive relief  
17 prohibiting Defendants and/or their agents, affiliates, and/or other persons or entities acting on  
18 Defendants' behalf from violating the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A), in the future.

19 **VIII. SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

20 **(Knowing and/or Willful Violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection  
Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A))**

21 32. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation set  
22 forth in the preceding paragraphs.

23 33. The foregoing acts and omissions of Real Time and/or its affiliates, agents  
24 and/or other persons or entities acting on Defendant's behalf constitute numerous and multiple  
25 knowing and/or willful violations of the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A).

34. As a result of Real Time's knowing and/or willful violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227 *et seq.*, Plaintiff and members of the Class are each entitled to treble damages of up to \$1,500 for each and every call in violation of the statute, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3).

35. Plaintiff and the Class are also entitled to and do seek injunctive relief prohibiting Defendants and/or their agents, affiliates, and/or other persons or entities acting on Defendants' behalf from violating the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A), in the future.

## **IX. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on his own behalf and on behalf of the Class, prays for judgment against Defendant as follows:

- A. Certification of the proposed Class;
- B. Appoint Plaintiff as representative of the Class;
- C. Appoint the undersigned counsel as counsel for the Class;
- D. Declare that Defendant and/or its affiliates, agents and/or other related entities' actions complained of herein violate the TCPA;
- E. Enjoin Defendant and/or its affiliates, agents and/or other related entities, as provided by law, from engaging in the unlawful conduct set forth herein;
- F. Award Plaintiff and the Class statutory, compensatory and exemplary damages, as allowed by law;
- G. Award Plaintiff and the Class attorneys' fees and costs, as allowed by law and/or equity;
- H. Permit Plaintiff and the Class leave to amend the Complaint to conform to the evidence presented at trial;
- I. A trial by jury on all issues so triable; and
- J. Grant such other and further relief as the Court deems necessary, just and proper.

## **X. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all counts so triable.

1 DATED this 30th day of August, 2013.

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